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712 If these officers speak the truth the Soviet Army
723 seems to place many hopes in the "first line of rocket artillery" resting on bases in Finland, Karelia and Estonian islands, a part of the "Leningrad Offensive Area." Lithuania and East Prussia serve as "the second line and the security zone of the connecting road junctions."

In addition to elaborate installations on the Estonian islands and the tip of Kurneme, fortifications are constructed along the line running from the port of Liepaja in Latvia, through Mažeikiai, along the upper Venta river, down the banks of the Dubysa southward to the Nemunas river, and up the Nemunas to the stronghold of Gardinas-Grodno. Ramifications of that underground fortified line give an impression of two fortified belts, with extended strong points at intervals. Underground fuel oil dumps, and steel and concrete munitions dumps are constructed. The fortified points are circled by medium sized airfields cleverly masked as "pastures" or "planted fields." Subterranean fuel dumps, more or less 3 meters deep, radiate 2 to 10 km. from such airfields. However, some of these dumps are intended for fuel other than gasoline. Inasmuch as these "magazines" lie near the main communication arteries, it is supposed that these dumps are intended for the long range rocket artillery—a weapon well developed by the Soviets. The sites are closely guarded by MVD garrisons, and labor crews are isolated from the natives. The work was done by military engineer units and labor gangs brought from Russia.

717 A larger airfield is located near Šiauliai. About 30 twin-motored fighter planes of new production are stationed there, in addition to more than a dozen old-type 2-U machines and several long range (up to 2,200
707 km.) bombers of new type. This is said to be the training base of the "Northern Front," where exercises for offensive action against Western Germany, the British Isles and Scandinavia are staged. An auxiliary base was constructed nearby in 1948.

000 Since July 1948, large MVD-MGB units, hospital trains and cavalry brigades were concentrated around Baranowicze and southward to Lviv, and additional air squadrons flew toward Pomerania. Simultaneously, large troop movements by railroad were observed toward Königsberg, and munitions trains rolled westward day and night for several weeks. It seemed that the Russians were expecting hostilities over Berlin and were moving reinforcements and supplies to Germany, and concentrating repression forces for another wave of mass deportations from Lithuania, in accordance with the orders of the Politburo relayed by MGB Abakumov.

Part of these troops were later diverted to Lithuania. A state of insurrection was deliberately provoked in connection with forcible collectivization, and an "operation" of deportations was effected.

## Repression Forces

● 625 The MVD forces stationed permanently in Lithuania number at least 30,000 men, mainly infantry and motorized units. A MVD school is operated on Duonelaitis Street in Kaunas, where MVD officer candidates are trained.

The MGB forces number about 40,000 men, of whom 10% are Lithuanians. A MGB officers school

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625 operates on the Gediminas Street in Vilnius, and nearly 30% of its cadets are Lithuanians. Small tank and reconnaissance planes are at the disposal of the MVD and MGB forces.

The People's Militia is part of the MVD, and most of the Lithuanian personnel is found there. The *"Istrebiteli"* ("Exterminators") are a part of the MGB. The "Istrebiteli" were devised in the spring of 1945 to combat "political bandits." Guerrilla activities were widespread at the time, and the Russians attempted to enlist about 30 native "Istrebiteli" in each township. All sorts of inducements and privileges were offered, including exemption from draft. Native Russians, gypsies and Polish-speaking city vagrants enlisted, as well as some Lithuanian youths anxious to escape the draft. The guerrillas, through the underground press and through their relatives, waged a very strenuous campaign against the "Istrebiteli." Recruits were ambushed and killed. Their ranks were depleted in skirmishes, when untrained raw recruits faced the veteran guerrillas. After each skirmish, the guerrillas circulated mimeographed appeals to "brothers," urging the "Stribs" to abandon the enemy and either join the guerrilla forces or seek a legal status somewhere in the country, rather than aid the oppressor in destroying their own people. This campaign was successful: few Lithuanians enlisted and the recruits deserted.

725 The Russians used the "Stribs" in collecting com-
625 pulsory grain quotas and taxes, and these functions made them universally hated. The inhabitants slyly derided the "Stribs" and *"Stribikauliai"* (deformed hips), etc., just as they referred to the "great" comrade Suslov as *"Suslava"* (trash sweepings). The "Stribs," receiving weapons but no uniforms nor food from the government, followed the example of the Russian tutors and engaged in wholesale robberies, murders and thefts. Farmers in no way connected with the resistance defended themselves with axes and scythes.

Such "living standards" rapidly depleted the once formidable force. In most places, only 2 or 3 "Stribs" survived in individual townships. These were finally incorporated in the uniformed MGB units. Township contingents were complemented by Russian aliens, a dozen to several dozen men in each township. Reserve units of the "Stribs" are stationed in county seats. These "operational MGB aktivs" roam the countryside night and day. They search homes, collect taxes, grain quotas, seek the hiding places of the guerrillas, detain people, and shoot suspects on sight—capital punishment was "abolished" in Russia. . . .

Frontier Corps units are stationed along the heavily guarded and fortified Polish frontier, and on the seacoast. MVD railroad units guard railroad stations and depots and check passengers' papers on trains. Combined MGB-MVD patrols (jeeps, armored cars, armored motorcycles, and tanks) control the main highways, especially at night.

## War Psychosis

723 Preparations for war are in evidence everywhere.
722 New airfields are constructed, old fields are expanded and modernized. Armored units, air squadrons and artillery are constantly in transit. Closely guarded military trains travel by night. The populace is kept in a state of nervous war tension—probably to provoke

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]



[625] Art. 67. The all-Union Ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Lithuanian SSR and the Ministry of State Security of the Lithuanian SSR set up their Administrations under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 68. The Departments and Administrations of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

633 Art. 69. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

- a Department of Local Industry and
- a Department of Agriculture.

Art. 70. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

## Chapter VI. The Budget of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

64 652 Art. 73. The state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is drawn up by the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is published for general information.